

Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP, IV, (HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY, FELIX)

SUBJECT: STATE VISIT OF PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY:

PROPOSAL FOR TECHNICAL TRAINING INSTITUTE

REFS: AIDTO CIRC A-740; STATE 148693; ABIDJAN 1079

ABIDJAN 5814 AUG 17, 1973 TO DEPT BEING REPEATED TO YOU

QUOTE:

1. THE FORTHCOMING STATE VISIT (OCTOBER 9-20) OF PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY PROVIDES A PARTICULARLY APPROPRIATE OCCASION FOR THE U.S. TO DEMONSTRATE ITS AWARENESS OF AND RESPONSIVENESS TO THE DEVELOPMENT NEEDS OF THE IVORY COAST. IN THIS REGARD, DR. HANNAH'S REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES WHICH ADDRESS AID'S NEW INITIATIVES IN FY 75 PROMPTS ME TO PROPOSE THE ESTABLISHMENT IN THE IVORY COAST OF A TECHNICAL TRAINING INSTITUTE WHICH COULD SERVE THE ENTENTE REGION.

2. DURING THE FEBRUARY 1973 VISIT OF CONGRESSMAN VANDER JAGT, PRESIDENT NIXON-S SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE, LOCAL U.S. BUSINESSMEN DURING DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CONGRESSMAN PROPOSED THAT U.S. INDUSTRY AND THE USG COLLABORATE IN THE

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CREATION OF A TECHNICAL TRAINING CENTER HERE TO TEACH BASIC

INDUSTRIAL SKILLS. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT CONGRESSMAN VANDER JAGT ELABORATED ON THIS PROPOSAL DURING DR. ADAM'S APRIL 12 STAFF MEETING AND THAT AID/W WOULD PURSUE THE MATTER.

3. THE PROPOSAL WOULD INCLUDE PARTICIPATION OF THE GOIC, U.S. AND LOCAL INDUSTRY, AND AID IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER:

A) I BELIEVE THE GOIC WOULD PROVIDE THE LAND AND PERHAPS A BUILDING.

B) U.S. AND LOCAL INDUSTRY WOULD PROVIDE ASSISTANCE IN THE FORM OF TEACHERS, TRAINING MATERIAL AND SOME EQUIPMENT. WE HAVE TALKED WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF A NUMBER OF U.S. AND LOCAL BUSINESSES, E.G. KAISER, GM. LANG ENGINEERING, GE, RIEGEL TEXTILE AND BLUE BELL, WHO HAVE EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN THIS IDEA.

C) AID WOULD COORDINATE THE PLANNING, ORGANIZATION, IMPLEMENTATION AND PROVIDE SUPPORT COSTS OF THE PROGRAM. BLUE BELL PRESIDENT ROGER LE MATTY SENT ME A NUMBER OF BROCHURES FROM THE GUILFORD TECHNICAL INSTITUTE IN NORTH CAROLINA WHICH MIGHT BE CONTRACTED TO DEVELOP THE CURRICULUM.

D) THE INSTITUTE COULD START WITH AN INITIAL ENROLLMENT OF 50-100 STUDENTS AND TEACH A VARIETY OF BASIC INDUSTRIAL SKILLS, E.G. TEXTILE TECHNICIANS, WELDERS, FITTERS, AUTO MECHANICS, MACHINISTS, ELECTRONIC REPAIRMEN.

4. THE PROPOSED TECHNICAL TRAINING INSTITUTE COULD SERVE U.S. INTERESTS IN A NUMBER OF WAYS:

A) IT RESPONDS TO THE GOIC DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES. PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY IN HIS INDEPENDENCE DAY MESSAGE STATED THAT THE MINISTRY OF TECHNICAL AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING MUST, IN COOPERATION WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR, TRAIN THE TECHNICIANS WHICH THE COUNTRY NEEDS.

B) THE PROPOSAL IS IN KEEPING WITH THE THRUST OF DR. HANNAH'S NEW INITIATIVES IN THAT IT WILL PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT RELATED NON-FORMAL EDUCATION ON A REGIONAL BASIS.

C) IT RESPONDS TO THE NEEDS OF U.S. EXPORT ORIENTED INDUSTRY. A COMMON COMPLAINT EMANATING FROM LOCAL AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN IS THE LACK OF TRAINED TECHNICIANS. THE PAUCITY OF LOCAL SKILLED LABOR FREQUENTLY INHIBITS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF U.S. INDUSTRIAL OR SALES AND SERVICE ENTERPRISES IN THE IVORY COAST.

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D) IT WILL FOSTER INCREASED U.S. EXPORTS TO THE IVORY COAST. TECHNICIANS TRAINED ON OR FAMILIAR WITH U.S. EQUIPMENT WILL TEND TO REQUEST THAT THEIR FIRM OR GOVERNMENT PURCHASE U.S. EQUIPMENT.

5. I RECOGNIZE THAT THIS PROPOSAL IS STILL IN A "BARE BONES" STAGE AND WILL REQUIRE CONSIDERABLE "FLESHING OUT". WE WILL CERTAINLY NEED TO SEE THAT IT FITS IN WITH EXISTING

IVORY COAST FACILITIES. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF HOUPHOUET-BOINGY'S IMPENDING VISIT TO THE U.S. I WOULD HOPE THAT AN AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE OF U.S. PARTICIPATION COULD BE ANNOUNCED IN WASHINGTON AT THAT TIME. IT WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE, IN MY VIEW, IF WE LET THE OCCASION OF THE HISTORIC

MEETING OF THE TWO PRESIDENTS PASS WITHOUT A CONCRETE DEMONSTRATION OF U.S. INTEREST IN PROMOTING THE DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES OF THE IVORY COAST. KISSINGER

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